



Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission

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MEMORANDUM

November 29, 2021

TO: Coastal Sharks Management Board, Advisory Panel, and Technical Committee
FROM: Kirby Rootes-Murdy, Senior FMP Coordinator
RE: 2022 Coastal Sharks Specifications

This memorandum serves as notification of the results of the electronic ballot to set the 2022 specifications for the coastal shark fishery. As voted on by the Coastal Sharks Management Board, the following motion carries without objection:

Move to adopt the 2022 coastal shark specifications as specified in the National Marine Fisheries Service final rule for the 2022 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season published on November 12, 2021. The fishing season will open on January 1, 2022 with a commercial possession limit of 55 large coastal sharks (LCS) other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) and 8 blacknose sharks per vessel trip. The commercial possession limit is subject to change; states will follow NMFS for in-season changes to the commercial possession limit.

This action complements the National Marine Fisheries Service's final rule for the 2022 Atlantic Shark Commercial Fishing Season, which can be found at:
https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/11/12/2021-24721/atlantic-highly-migratory-species-2022-atlantic-shark-commercial-fishing-year?utm_source=federalregister.gov&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=subscription+mailing+list

The coastal shark fishing season in state and federal waters will open on January 1, 2022. The commercial possession limit for large coastal sharks (i.e. aggregated LCS and hammerhead shark management groups) is 55 sharks per vessel per trip. There may be in-season changes to the commercial possession limit depending on catch rates.

If you have any questions, please contact me at krootes-murdy@asmfc.org or 703.842.0740.

Table 1. NMFS final adjusted quotas, retention limits, and opening dates for the 2022 coastal shark fishery.

Region or Sub-region	Management Group	2022 Annual Adjusted Quota*	Quota Linkages	Commercial Retention Limits for Directed Shark Limited Access Permit Holders (inseason adjustments are possible)	Season Opening Dates
Atlantic	Aggregated Large Coastal Sharks	168.9 mt dw (372,552 lb dw)	Linked	55 LCS other than sandbar sharks per vessel per trip. If the quota is landed too quickly, NMFS will consider in-season reduction as needed	January 1, 2022
	Hammerhead Sharks	27.1 mt dw (59,736 lb dw)			
	Non-Blacknose Small Coastal Sharks	264.1 mt dw (582,333 lb dw)	Linked (South of 34°N. lat. only)	N/A	January 1, 2022
	Blacknose Sharks (South of 34° N. lat. only)	17.2 mt dw (37,921 lb dw)		8 blacknose sharks per vessel per trip (applies to directed and incidental permit holders; inseason adjustments not possible)	
	Smoothhound sharks	1,802.6 mt dw (3,973,902 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	January 1, 2022
No regional quotas	Non-Sandbar LCS Research	50.0 mt dw (110,230 lb dw)	Linked	N/A	January 1, 2022
	Sandbar Shark Research	90.7 mt dw (199,943 lb dw)			
	Blue Sharks	273.0 mt dw (601,856 lb dw)	Not Linked	N/A	
	Porbeagle Sharks	1.7 mt dw (3,748 lb dw)			
	Pelagic Sharks Other Than Porbeagle or Blue	488.0 mt dw (1,075,856 lb dw)			

*1 mt dw = 2,204.6 lb dw